

June 17, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Docket 03-104 (Broadband over Power Line/Power Line
Carrier)

Dear Commissioners:

I am very concerned that in your haste to implement Broadband over Power Line (BPL) / Power Line Carrier (PLC), you will overlook the potential downside of this technology.

Well-documented studies in Europe and Japan indicate that BPL/PLC causes harmful interference to high frequency communications. Additional investigation within the U.S provides further evidence that the interference caused by this technology is not trivial. It is strong enough to obliterate all but the strongest signals, which would render high frequency communications virtually useless.

I happen to live in a rural area, and could see some potential benefit in the implementation of BPL/PLC. However, I am also an FCC-licensed radio amateur. If the studies cited above are accurate, the proliferation of this technology would likely drive me off the air.

The communications infrastructure in the mountainous area where I reside is somewhat fragile. Radio amateurs are frequently called upon to assist local law enforcement and firefighters in dealing with emergency situations. It would seem counter-productive for the Commission to permit implementation of BPL/PLC at the cost of eliminating emergency communications capabilities.

I believe that the FCC should tread very cautiously in evaluating the potential implementation of BPL/PLC. Proponents of this technology should be required to evaluate and test their delivery systems very thoroughly, and to prove beyond a doubt that BPL/PLC will not cause harmful interference to other users of the High Frequency spectrum.

Very truly yours,

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